

May I by an illustration indicate what this does and what it does not do? Let us assume the governor submits a budget of \$2 billion of expenditures to the legislature, and this is balanced by an estimated revenue of \$2 billion. Under the present Constitution the General Assembly may only reduce those amounts. It is no answer to this amendment to say with a suggested bogey man that the General Assembly would take money away from the University of Maryland and give it to the state colleges. They may do that now. They may decrease it; they may take it away from any agency.

Under this amendment if the General Assembly should decide to reduce the total expenditures by, let us say \$500,000, that is within the estimate of revenue, so there would presumably be a surplus of that much money at the end of the year.

Now, the legislature cannot add that money to some other department, some other agency, some new program which it thinks this State needs. Under the amendment that is what it could do. It could say to the Department of Fisheries, we do not think that you need that much money, and therefore, we reduce that item by "x" dollars. They could say that in the development of education we think you need "x" dollars, and so they merely transfer those funds.

Now, contrast that to what they are required to do now, as I understand the budget making process. They may reduce the money from the Department of Fisheries, but only by a supplementary appropriation bill may they add the money to the Department of Education. It is not a real answer to say that they can do it by a supplementary appropriation bill, because they must also provide a new tax or a new rate of tax, a new source of revenue for the supplementary appropriation bill.

THE CHAIRMAN: You have one-half minute, Delegate Bamberger.

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: What I have never understood is why if the General Assembly decides that the appropriation for a particular department provided in the governor's budget should be reduced so there is \$200,000 of revenue that the governor said would come to the State in the next year, why should not the General Assembly be able to say, "we will then put that \$200,000 into this other department for this new program"?

The budget remains balanced.

THE CHAIRMAN: Your time is expired, Delegate Bamberger.

DELEGATE BAMBERGER: May I read one sentence from the document we all have, called "Modernizing the Executive Branch of the Maryland Government"?

We have done much here to free the governor from internal restraints, particularly with respect to the responsibility of the comptroller and treasurer.

This volume suggests this: "If the present system of checks within the executive branch itself, and specifically within the fiscal management area of that branch is not continued by constitutional provision, it will undoubtedly mean that the powers of the governor can find an effective check only in the powers and actions of the legislature."

I suggest that that is part of the purpose of this amendment, and I urge its passage.

THE CHAIRMAN: Does any other delegate desire to speak in opposition to the amendment?

Delegate Adkins—sorry; Delegate Gilchrist has the floor. You had the floor before, Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: I want to offer an amendment at the appropriate time.

THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.

Delegate Gilchrist.

DELEGATE GILCHRIST: Mr. Chairman, I find myself in a rather strange position when I look at the sponsors of this amendment and hear some of the speeches they have been making.

We had last week at the moment at which we are now engaged in this debate schedule a great debate about strengthening the executive branch of the government of Maryland. One of the great arguments that was used with respect to the fiscal affairs which were under discussion then was that the fiscal control and fiscal responsibility for the affairs of the State ought to be vested in the executive branch in the governor.

I find it strange that some of the sponsors of that same proposal last week would now reverse their position. Two weeks before in the discussion of the article on the legislative branch it was reported to the floor that this subject had been discussed at some length in the deliberations of the Committee.